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09/776,057	02/02/2001	Robert Sesek	10002445-1	9354

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EXAMINER

LETT, THOMAS J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/776,057	Applicant(s) SESEK, ROBERT	
	Examiner Thomas J. Lett	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 28 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim is dependent upon itself. For the purpose of examination, the Examiner will assume that claim 28 depends from claim 27. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 21-24 and 26-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crawford (GB 2331820 A).

With respect to claim 21, Crawford discloses a method, comprising:

storing an authorized bio signature in a memory (fingerprint stored previously in NVM 88, p3, lines 20-21) of a printer (document platform 60, p2, lines 34-38);

the printer comparing an entered bio signature for a user to the authorized bio signature (CPU 82 compares fingerprint to previously stored fingerprint code, p3, lines 21-23); and

the printer (document platform 60) allowing the user access to the configuration controls of the printer only if the entered bio signature matches the authorized bio signature (based on comparison, access to the document platform 60 is approved or

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denied, p3, lines 23-27. The system does not allow interaction with the main machine architecture (MMA 70) if the fingerprint does not match, p3, lines 26-27).

With respect to claim 22, Crawford discloses a method of Claim 21, further comprising prompting a user to enter a bio signature of the user at the printer when the user attempts to access configuration controls of the printer (when accessing a document platform 60 user is prompted to place a finger on sensor 40, p3, lines 19-20).

With respect to claim 23, Crawford discloses a method of Claim 21, wherein the entered bio signature comprises a first entered bio signature (fingerprint stored previously in NVM 88, p3, lines 20-21) and the method further comprising:

the printer receiving a secured print job (p4, line 1) and a bio signature associated with the print job (Based on a fingerprint comparison, access to the document platform 60 is approved or denied, p3, lines 23-27. A secured print job can be obtained from the document platform 60 only if the authorized user touches the fingerprint sensor, p3, line 37 – p4, line 2. The fingerprint is inherently associated with the print job since the sender is trying to secure the document for the appropriate receiver. Examiner also notes that continuous identity checks can be carried out, p4, lines 2-3);

the printer comparing a second entered bio signature to the bio signature associated with the print job (a secured print job can be obtained from the document platform 60 only if the authorized user touches the fingerprint sensor, p3, line 37 – p4, line 2.); and

printing the print job only if the second entered bio signature matches the bio

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signature associated with the print job (a print job is only released when the authorized user is verified, p4, lines 1-2).

With respect to claim 24, Crawford discloses a method of Claim 23, wherein the first entered bio signature (fingerprint stored previously in NVM 88, p3, lines 20-21) and the second entered bio signature (temporarily stored in memory 84, p4, line 23) are the same entered bio signature.

With respect to claim 26, Crawford discloses a method of Claim 23, further comprising tracking usage of the printer according to an entered bio signature (the printer 60 may track users trying to use the printer 60, p4, lines 20-22).

With respect to claim 27, Crawford discloses a printing system, comprising;
a printer (document platform 60, p2, lines 34-38);
a biometric identification device operatively connected to the printer for entering bio signatures directly into the printer (sensor 40, p3, lines 2-3); and
the printer configured to store an authorized bio signature in a memory of the printer (fingerprint stored previously in NVM 88, p3, lines 20-21), compare a bio signature of a user entered through the biometric identification device to the authorized bio signature (based on a fingerprint comparison, access to the document platform 60 is approved or denied, p3, lines 23-27) , and

allow the user access to the configuration controls of the printer only if the entered bio signature matches the authorized bio signature (based on comparison, access to the document platform 60 is approved or denied, p3, lines 23-27. The system

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does not allow interaction with the main machine architecture (MMA 70) if the fingerprint does not match, p3, lines 26-27).

With respect to claim 28, Crawford discloses a system of Claim 28, wherein the printer is further configured to prompt a user to enter a bio signature of the user at the printer when the user attempts to access configuration controls of the printer (when accessing a document platform 60 user is prompted to place a finger on sensor 40, p3, lines 19-20).

With respect to claim 29, Crawford discloses a system of Claim 28, wherein the entered bio signature comprises a first entered bio signature and the printer further configured to:

receive a secured print job (p4, line 1) and a bio signature associated with the print job (a secured print job can be obtained from the document platform 60 only if the authorized user touches the fingerprint sensor, p3, line 37 – p4, line 2. The fingerprint is inherently associated with the print job since the sender is trying to secure the document for the appropriate receiver);

compare a second bio signature of a user entered through the biometric identification device to the bio signature associated with the print job (CPU 82 compares fingerprint to previously stored fingerprint code, p3, lines 21-23); and

print the print job only if the second entered bio signature matches the bio signature associated with the print job (a print job is only released when the authorized user is verified, p4, lines 1-2).

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With respect to claim 30, Crawford discloses a system of Claim 29, wherein the first entered bio signature (fingerprint stored previously in NVM 88, p3, lines 20-21) and the second entered bio signature (temporarily stored in memory 84, p4, line 23) are the same entered bio signature.

With respect to claim 31, Crawford discloses a system of Claim 29, wherein the printer is further configured to track usage of the printer according to an entered bio signature (the printer 60 may track users trying to use the printer 60, p4, lines 20-22).

With respect to claim 32, Crawford discloses a system of Claim 29, further comprising a host computer (can be computer processing circuitry 50 connected to MMA 20 as shown in Fig. 1) for generating the secured print job and associating the bio signature with the secured print job (A secured print job can be obtained from the document platform 60 only if the authorized user touches the fingerprint sensor, p3, line 37 – p4, line 2. The fingerprint is inherently associated with the print job since the sender is trying to secure the document for the appropriate receiver).

With respect to claim 33, Crawford discloses a system of Claim 32, further comprising a biometric identification device operatively connected to the host computer for generating the bio signature associated with the secured print job (although the biometric sensor is incorporated in the MMA 70 in Fig. 2, Crawford also discloses that the biometric identification device can be fingerprint sensor 40 connected to computer processing circuitry 50 connected to MMA 20 as shown in Fig. 1).

With respect to claim 34, Crawford discloses a system of Claim 27, wherein the printer comprises a fax machine (p1, lines 5-7).

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With respect to claim 35, Crawford discloses a system of Claim 27, wherein the bio signature comprises an electronic representation of a user's fingerprint (fingerprint code, p3, lines 20-23).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford (GB 2331820 A) in view of Nagel (USPGPub 20050038756 A1).

With respect to claim **25**, Crawford discloses a method of Claim 21, wherein the entered bio signature comprises a first entered bio signature (fingerprint stored previously in NVM 88, p3, lines 20-21) and the method further comprising:

the printer receiving a secured print job (p4, line 1) and a bio signature associated with the print job (Based on a fingerprint comparison, access to the document platform 60 is approved or denied, p3, lines 23-27. A secured print job can be obtained from the document platform 60 only if the authorized user touches the fingerprint sensor, p3, line 37 – p4, line 2. The fingerprint is inherently associated with the print job since the sender is trying to secure the document for the appropriate receiver. Examiner also notes that continuous identity checks can be carried out, p4, lines 2-3);

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the printer comparing a second entered bio signature to the bio signature associated with the print job (a secured print job can be obtained from the document platform 60 only if the authorized user touches the fingerprint sensor, p3, line 37 – p4, line 2); and

printing the print job only if the second entered bio signature matches the bio signature associated with the print job (a print job is released when the authorized user is verified, p4, lines 1-2).

Crawford does not disclose expressly the printer receiving a secured print job and a bio signature associated with the print job comprises the printer receiving a secured print job having a bio signature embedded therein.

Nagel teaches that valuable documents may be securely printed with an incorporated biometric characteristic in a printing process (para. 0152, line 3 – para. 0153, line 9)*. Crawford and Nagel are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of secure document printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the biometric document association of Nagel to the secure printing method of Crawford in order to obtain a biometric associated with a document. The motivation for doing so would be to associate a fingerprint with a document.

Conclusion

*Please note that the Art Unit handling communications for this application is Art Unit 2625.

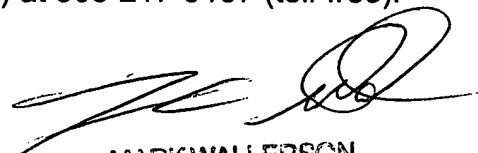
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJL



MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER